

Edward Burling Jr., House
1339 29th Street, N. W. (Georgetown)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-465

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 2024D

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EDWARD BURLING, JR. HOUSE

HABS No. DC-465

Location: 1339 29th Street, N.W. Washington (Georgetown)
District of Columbia.

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Burling, Jr.

Present Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Burling, Jr.

Date of Easement: December 7, 1976 (National Trust for Historic
Preservation Easement Property).

Significance: The townhouse located at 1339 29th Street forms
an important element in the contiguous,
compatible visual fabric of 29th Street. The
structure is composed of three late eighteenth
century dwellings joined together in 1937 to
create a single structure. Mr. Burling, a lawyer
and senior partner of Convington and Burling, was
one of the first trustees of the National Trust
for Historical Preservation.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The three original structures date from the late eighteenth century.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original plans and construction: All three structures evidently were individual dwellings. The north building was two bays wide with a flat roof and door at the north bay. The middle building was three bays wide with a gable roof, one dormer, an entry at the central bay reached by a flight of wood stairs, and an arched passageway which led to the rear. The third building at the south was two bays wide with a gable roof and an entrance reached by four stone steps at the south bay. Chimneys were situated at the party wall.
4. Alterations and additions: The additions made in 1937 were designed by George L. Howe, architect, of Howe and Foster, Washington, D.C. The north section had a new gable roof installed and the front door removed. The central bay entry of the middle structure was changed to a window. The main entrance was then relocated in the passageway. The door of the south building was altered to provide another window. Note: For photographs of the building, see photographs in collection of Edward Burling, Jr.

Perry Wheeler, landscape architect, designed the pool and terrace.

In 1973 Hugh Jacobson designed a glass enclosed terrace located at the rear of the central structure.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Burling House contributes significantly to the uniform and compatible streetscape of 29th Street. The renovation linking the three small townhouses has been successful in retaining the late eighteenth century character of the streetscape.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Wall construction: The facade is brick laid in common bond. At one time after 1937 the facade was painted white. The paint is now showing signs of wear.
2. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys serve the house. One pre-dates the renovation and is situated on the wall between the north and middle buildings. Another chimney located on the south wall, is an outside end chimney constructed in 1937.
3. Stairs: The main entry is reached by a straight flight of stone stairs with five steps and a black wrought-iron rail.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main doorway is located on the south bay of the middle townhouse. Formerly a passage to the rear of the building, the black painted door is surmounted by a round-headed transom.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The Burling House has a total of six bays. Six windows are located on the second story and five windows on the first story. Each window is a double hung sash window with six-over-six lights. Muntins and louvered shutters are painted black while the sills and trim are painted white.
5. Roofs: Each section of the house has a gable roof covered with grey slate. Snow guards are placed along the roof at the street facade.

6. Dormers: A single dormer is located at the central bay of the middle section of the building. The double hung sash dormer widow with six-over-six light has asbestos shingles on the sides and a slate roof.

Prepared by: National Trust for Historic
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1977

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